

ch/G file copy

22 OCT 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

THROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports Noted By AD/RR

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

I. Purpose of Trip

A. To attend the sessions of the International Geographical Congress meeting at Rio de Janeiro from 9 - 18 August and to participate in the deliberations of the Official US delegation as delegates named by the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.

B. To establish contact with principal map-producing organizations for the purpose of re-negotiations of latent exchanges or the renewal of personal contact.

C. To confer with personnel engaged in geographic research in the various countries visited, with a view toward the appraisal of current and projected research programs as they relate to: (1) the objectives of the Commission on Geography of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); and (2) the revisions in the objectives of this Commission as suggested by the US delegate. To ascertain the views of leading geographers, research institutes, and universities concerning the past work of the Commission on Geography and a desirable future program as related to the needs of the individual Latin American countries.

D. To confer with officials responsible for the work of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS) in each of the countries visited, and to become aware of the character of the program, its personnel, accomplishments, problems and future plans. To work with responsible country directors of IAGS in clarifying map procurement responsibilities of the Department of State vis-a-vis those directed by the Central IAGS office in Panama to the various local map producers.

E. [REDACTED] To cooperate as appropriate with representatives of this Agency in the collection of data and accomplishment of other objectives.

F. [REDACTED] To participate, as an official delegate, in the meetings of the Commission on Geography of the PAIGH.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

II. Activities and FindingsA. International Geographical Congress

The XVIIIth International Geographical Congress meeting from 9-18 August was attended by representatives from fifty countries; the total number of participants was 1,006. There were large delegations from the United States, France, England and Brazil. At the first plenary session, it became obvious that the President, L. Dudley Stamp, would attempt to accomplish a major part of the Union's business by what appeared to be a railroading operation not at all in line with parliamentary procedures. After the first meeting was over, a count of the actions taken indicated that not one (with the exception of the written vote described below) had been subjected to the simple procedures of voting; all had been passed by acclamation or because of lack of negative voice.

At this first session, a problem was created over the admittance of East Germany. By actual written vote, five countries were admitted:

Ethiopia.....	24 votes
Iceland.....	24 votes
Hungary.....	23 votes
USSR.....	23 votes
German Democratic Republic.....	15 votes

All of these were total votes out of a possible 26. Although the GDR received only 15 votes, Stamp ruled their admittance into the Union even after concerted efforts on the part of the US delegation and the delegation from West Germany to prevent it. The head of the US delegation, W.W. Atwood, Jr., actively pursued the matter during the conference period, working with Mr. Wendelin, Political Counselor at the US Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, and with representatives of Embassies of other countries interested in a reversal of the decision to admit the German Democratic Republic. (See Department of State Despatch No. 232, 22 August 1956, Rio de Janeiro, Confidential, attached as TAB A.) After a week of concerted negotiations, it appeared that Stamp, and Kimball, Executive Secretary of the IGU, would remain adamant in the stand taken at the first plenary session. Their position was based on belief that any geographic area of the world could have representation in the International Geographical Union, and that -- in a scientific organization such as the IGU -- political differences did not matter and should not influence the membership of a given area. At the last plenary session, when the final position of the Union came before all delegates, Stamp reversed his stand by interpreting the 15 votes as an insufficient majority

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

to express the true interests of all countries adhering to the IGU. He therefore recommended that the question be referred to the Executive Committee for study and that the matter be presented to the Union for decision at some future time.

The United States delegation and other delegations had been a bit dismayed and concerned over the presentation of the new members' applications for admittance when they had not been notified of the application sufficiently in advance for study and determination of a country position. This appeared to be a further bit of mishandling of the Union's business by the President and Secretary.

All official meetings of the US delegation and several informal meetings were attended for the purpose of developing US position regarding participation in, and the continuance of US support to, certain committees and commissions of the Union.

President Kubitschek of Brazil officially opened the session by a well-prepared and well-delivered speech concerning the importance of geography in national affairs. The exhibits were officially opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. Most countries were represented by an exhibit of good quality, the USSR making a particular play by appearing magnanimous in exhibiting a lot of its maps and publications.

25X1X1 A very careful examination of the USSR exhibit revealed that we [REDACTED] all of these have been ordered and we have every expectation of receiving them. Much of their exhibit consisted of plates from various atlases and a good sampling of school maps, as well as oblast maps, which are colorful, attractive, and representative of the kind of work being done in the USSR. The exhibit was completely lacking in large-scale topographic maps, these being under strict security control by the military. It was interesting to note that the USSR exhibit was located strategically at the head of the steps of the exhibit hall and that the light was good as it occupied an outside space close to the windows. The exhibit appeared to have no central theme or mission to perform, other than attracting attention.

The United Kingdom exhibit was large, but heavily commercial in character. It appeared that every book dealer in Britain had placed samples of geographic work.

The US exhibit, and those of several other countries, were collected and organized to demonstrate the kinds of geographic research being done by representative universities, research institutes, and

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1X1

government offices. These exhibits were generally less splashy and attractive, but contributed far more toward accomplishing the intent of a geographic exhibit than did those of most other countries.

Meetings of the sections and commissions pertinent to the reporters' interests in physical geography, cartography, photo interpretation, and geographic research techniques were attended; these were profitable, commensurate with the degree of understanding of the languages in which the papers were presented. Many of the papers were dull and contributed little toward advancement of the profession. In many cases, they appeared to be merely an attempt of the author of the paper to satisfy requirements for attendance at the IGU. Some few papers, however, were outstanding, but much of the value accruing from attendance came from direct contact and discussion with a number of geographers from other countries who have done outstanding work in certain fields of interest to us.

The Brazilian organizing committee, under the leadership of Professor Hilgard O'Reilly Sternberg, did an excellent job in providing for the needs of all Congress participants by their excellent arrangements. Sternberg cooperated with the reporters by providing lists of delegates, addresses, and other information needed to carry out a segment of our mission.

It became apparent during the course of the Congress that some care had to be exercised in meeting and talking with Brazilian geographers because the Communist Party has succeeded in infiltrating the geographic profession and geographic offices of the Brazilian government.

25X6F [REDACTED] de In many instances, the members of the USSR delegation, through their activities with Brazilian geographers, bore out the conclusion that Communist infiltration has been very successful.

TAB B is a biographical summary of the Russian delegates prepared by a United States geographer who collaborated in the collection of pertinent data.

TAB C is a collection of pictures of Russian and other delegates to the Congress.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

B. Contacts with Principal Map-Producing Organizations

The efforts of the reporters to re-establish cordial relations with map-producing agencies, in some instances to re-negotiate latent exchanges, and in other instances to do on-the-spot procurement of needed maps or geographic materials, were successfully accomplished in all countries.

During two weeks' active procurement in Brazil, the exchange with the Servicio Geográfico del Ejército was renegotiated with General Farias, the Director, and Col. Sergio, his Aide. Major John Glab, the IAGS director in Brazil, was present and concurred in the terms of exchange and its relationship to the IAGS facilities and program. The work programs of the Departamento Nacional de Obras Contra As Secas and the Conselho Nacional de Geografia were carefully examined through discussions with the respective directors, Engineer Pessoa and Professor Valverde. A survey was made of the work being conducted at Geo-Photo Limited, an aerial photographic and photogrammetric concern doing work for the government. Contacts with key individuals were made in the Ministry of Marine, Department of Agriculture, Panair do Brasil, the Brazilian Touring Club, the Brazilian Automobile Association, the Ministry of Public Health, the Public Library in Rio, a private engineering firm and several bookstores.

In Argentina, contact was made with Col. Victor Hugo Hoskings, the Director of the Dirección General del Servicio Geográfico Militar and the exchange was re-affirmed and will be put on an active basis. Professor Federico Daus, president of the Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Geográficos, was consulted concerning geographic research in Argentina and Argentine participation in the PAIGH. Professor Dr. Romualdo Ardissoni and Professor Mario Grondona were visited at the Instituto Geográfico -- Facultad de Filosofía. The current status of geographic work throughout Argentina was carefully reviewed and samples of materials examined.

In Chile, contacts were made with General R. Cañas Montalva, president of PAIGH; Gen. Daniel Urra Fuentes, the director of the Instituto Geográfico Militar, and with his deputy, Col. Saavedra Rojas. Col. Oscar Avendaño, directing the IGY activities in Chile through a committee, expedited introductions to a number of government offices in which we were interested. These included the Ministry of Public Works -- Jorge Kelemen, director; Departamento de Mensura de Tierras, Ministerio de Tierras y Colonización -- Angel Aguilera Aponte, chief; Departamento de Riegos, Dirección General de Obras Públicas -- Sr. Dionisio Retauel director; Dirección General del Servicio de Estadística y Censo -- Carcamo Cantin, director.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

In Peru, contacts were made with the following: Instituto Geográfico Militar -- Col. Guillerimo Barriga, director; Ministerio de Fomento y Obras Publicas -- Eduardo A. Salgado, director of the Dirección de Caminos and Ernesto Avila, director general of the Dirección General de Ferrocarriles. We also contacted Dr. Ricardo Palma, who conducted us on a tour of the Automovil Club del Perú.

In Colombia, we contacted Dr. José Iguacio Ruiz, director, and Dr. Alfonso Ilana, Chief, Archives Section, of the Instituto Geografico de Colombia; Ernesto Guhl, independent geographer; Dr. Franco of the Banco de la Republica; and Dr. Acivedo Latorre, director of the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística.

In Venezuela, contact was made with Dr. Eduardo Calcaño, Director, Dirección de Cartografía Nacional, Ministerio de Obras Publicas and the Public Relations Department of Creole Petroleum.

C. Contacts with Personnel Engaged in Geographic Research Work

In every country, attempts were made to make contact with leading geographers in universities and those responsible for the direction of geographic work in research institutes or government offices.

Brazil offered ample opportunity to observe direct geographic contributions to government planning and operations. The Conselho Nacional de Geografia, with a considerable staff which is organized regionally, has completed some and is continuing to work on regional studies for all of Brazil, as well as special resource studies and other functional studies for regional and operational planning. Copies of all regional and functional studies were procured and arrangements were made to receive future production from the Conselho. Considerable time was spent by both travelers on different occasions in examining the Center for the Evaluation of Natural Resources, which was established by Regulation 29 of the PAIGH charter. The US Advisory Committee to the US member of the Consultation on Geography of the PAIGH is especially interested in the type of program being given, the adequacy of the program, and the future of the Center. The Brazilian Government is tentatively planning to take over the Center by providing full financial support in 1957. A quick tour provided by the Director of the Center was supposed to leave visitors with the impression that the program was being adequately handled and that everything at the Center was in good condition. However, further inquiry by direct conversation with employees of the Center provided information which indicated that conditions there are not as desirable as they should be. A full report of findings concerning this will be written for the US Advisory

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

Committee to the US Member of the Commission on Geography of the PAIGH. Although arrangements had been made in Rio de Janeiro with Professor Ary Franca, head of geography at the University of Sao Paulo, to visit his university, for some unknown reason he was not available.

The leading participants in geographic research in Argentina are now jockeying for position as a result of the overthrow of the Peron regime. Professor Federico Daus, for example, was a Peronista and is holding his position as President of the Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Geográficos. He also feels that he will continue as the geographer member on the several committees of the PAIGH. This is not certain, however, as Dr. Ardissonne and Professor Grondona of the Geographic Institute at the University feel that the days of Daus are numbered, and that he will be replaced in influential geographic circles. Excellent work in physical and applied geography is going on in Argentina and is being done almost exclusively in response to current national problems. Copies of research completed during the last several years were obtained and provision was made for receipt of future production.

In Chile, most of the geographic research is being conducted within the government as a part of programs of colonization, regional development, population study, and irrigation, and at the University of Santiago, Institute of Geography, under the able leadership of Professor Fuenzalida. As a matter of fact, Professor Fuenzalida's small staff is undertaking kinds of geographic research applied to national problems which were the most unique observed in all of Latin America. Their work on the distribution, content, and incidence of minerals in river water for irrigation will be of material value in the utilization of certain waters coming from the Andes for the irrigation of various types of crops in the valleys of Chile.

In Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela, geographic work, for the most part, is being conducted as an adjunct or as an integral part of governmental work in the various offices. One exception to this was in Colombia, where a Professor Guhl -- [REDACTED] -- and a Fr. Ramirez -- in charge of IGY activities -- are conducting geographic and geophysical studies on their own related to critical gaps in geographic knowledge for the country.

25X6F

D. Contacts with Officials Responsible for Work of the IAGS

In every country visited, contact was made with the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS) officials, their program was reviewed, progress and difficulties noted. Special attention was given to IAGS

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

procurement activities and the relationship of the local country program to the Department of State map-procurement program. A February 1956 directive from Panama for IAGS to engage in map procurement activities has created considerable confusion in the minds of responsible IAGS officials over their responsibilities for map procurement as directed and their desire to cooperate with the Department of State Program.

In Brazil, we were very successful in work with Major Glab of IAGS in re-negotiating an exchange understanding with the Servicio Geográfico del Ejército. In this instance, the IAGS office will be informed of and serve as expeditor of the exchange business between the Brazilian outfit and the Department of State.

In the other countries, most of the exchange business with the principal map organizations is being handled by the IAGS office. All maps received are being forwarded to Panama and then, presumably, to Washington for distribution. This, however, does not work and the situation in these countries must be corrected. All IAGS programs in Latin America have been cut in varying degrees and the commanding officers of each were concerned about the effects of the cut on local attitudes and local determination to keep the program going.

It was interesting to note in all countries, and especially in Brazil, that professional geographers -- as did other members of professional fields -- had to battle for their existence in the national political arena. It was necessary in Brazil for professional people to hold several jobs in order to make enough for adequate living. For example, the director of the Center for the Evaluation of Natural Resources, in addition to spending part-time with that organization, also participated in practicing law and was the advisor to President Kubitschek on agricultural matters. Several of the professors at the Center were employed by private firms for several hours of each day and, in addition, held a job in a government office for the other four hours. In any event, persons filling governmental positions were extremely well versed in the political line-up of professional people as far as their national politics was concerned, and were not hesitant to predict re-alignments of entire government offices -- down through the lowest professional positions -- if and when the government changed. Geographic work suffers tremendously under these kinds of situations because most of the time appeared to be devoted to the building and mending of political fences.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

III. Problems or Difficulties

A. As noted in the findings concerning the IAGS, a problem exists over the duplication in map procurement caused by the issuance of the recent IAGS directive instructing all IAGS offices to engage in map-procurement activities in Latin America. IAGS offices visited do not have the staff to carry out the directive and agree that perhaps procurement can better be handled by the Department of State map procurement program -- through the direct contacts of its Geographic Attache, who will presently be reassigned there. [REDACTED] has this problem under discussion with G-2 and the local IAGS office at the Army Map Service. A solution appears to be close at hand. 25X1A9a

B. Geographic Research needs encouragement and stimulation in most Latin American countries. This can be done through the exchange of professional people at various levels and by offering further opportunities in the United States for the training of Latin American students in graduate programs.

C. The future of the Center for the Evaluation of Natural Resources will be of considerable concern to the US Advisory Committee and, on the basis of information gathered by various members of that committee who were in Latin America during the summer, a recommendation will be made to the Organization of American States concerning its future.

D. If professional personnel are to make their maximum contribution both in and outside the governments in Latin American countries, progress must be made in removing politics from professional work.

IV. Commitments

A number of commitments were made with official government organizations throughout all of the countries visited for the exchange of maps and other geographic materials. These exchange arrangements, which were re-negotiations for the most part, can be explained in full if desired. They are, however, an integral part of our existing map acquisition program.

V. Recommendations

A. There should be continued exploitation of professional meetings for both the short- and long-range benefits to be derived therefrom.

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

B. A more realistic cover history should be developed for professional personnel attending professional meetings, or there should be open admittance of CIA affiliation, with permission to give title of job and general character of work performed.

25X1A9a

Enclosures:

- *TAB A -- Dept. of State Despatch No. 232, 22 Aug. 1956, Rio, C.
- TAB B -- The Soviet Delegation at Rio, XVIIIth ICG, 9-18 Aug. 1956.
- *TAB C -- Pictures of Russian and Other Delegates.

(*Attached to first copy of the report only.)

ORR/Ch/G:JAB:jac/535(12 Oct. 1956)

Distribution:

- 2 - DD/I
- 2 - FCS/DD/I
- 2 - St/I
- 1 - St/A
- 2 - Ch/G
- 2 - Chief. D/GL
- 1 - D/GG
- 1 - BR/OCR
- 1 - WH/DD/P

*Sent, 22 Oct 56,
at request
of OAD/RR
(ann)
jmc*

- 1 - SR/DD/P
 - 1 - AD/CI
- Sent, 24 Oct 56
at request
of Mohel
jmc*

S-E-C-R-E-T